

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06745 011049Z  
ACTION NODS-00

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6745

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PDIP, US, KS  
SUBJECT: THE KIM DONG-JO DIALOGUE

REF: A) STATE 193163; B) SEOUL 6744

1. FORMIN CALLED ME IN LATE AFTERNOON AUGUST 1, TO BRIEF ME ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID A DISCUSSION HAD BEEN HELD YESTERDAY WITH KIM DONG-JO REGARDING POSSIBLE CLARIFICATION HE MIGHT OFFER TO THE US CONGRESS ON HIS PROPOSED RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS. KIM SAID THAT HE HAD SERVED AS AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON FOR SEVEN YEARS, THAT HE WAS A MAN OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR, AND THAT QUESTIONING OF HIS SINCERITY OFFENDED HIM. IF AND WHEN REQUESTED HE WILL HOWEVER, OFFER HIS ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS POSED. THE FORMIN SAID THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION THAT AN UNDERTAKING BY THE ROKG TO URGE SINCERE RESPONSE ON KIM WOULD BE HELPFUL WAS ALSO EXPLAINED. AS FAR AS THE ROKG IS CONCERNED, IT IS PREPARED TO URGE KIM DONG-JO TO DO HIS BEST TO END THIS PROBLEM IN A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY MANNER. FORMIN SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT COURSE ETHICS COMMITTEE WOULD ADOPT, BUT, IF IT ACCEPTS THE ROKG APPROACH, THE ROKG WILL SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO KIM DONG-JO AND URGE A POSITIVE RESPONSE.

2. I TOLD FORMIN I HAD CALLED ON KCIA DIRECTOR KIM  
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EARLIER SAME DAY. I REITERATED POINTS MADE ON HOUSE ACTION ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE, CHANGES IN ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFF AND DIFFERENCES IN VIEW BETWEEN CONGRESS AND ROKG (REF B). I STRESSED THAT IF QUESTIONS WERE PUT TO KIM DONG-JO, THEY WULD BE DETAILED, AND PROBABLY SUPPORTED BY CIRCUMSTANCIAL EVIDENCE AND THAT WE WOULD EXPECT CONFIRMATION, DENIAL, AND/OR EXPLANATIONS ON ALL QUESTIONS. THIS WAS OUR VIEW OF

WHAT WAS MEANT BY A SINCERE RESPONSE. I ASKED THE FORMIN IF HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE PROBABLY NATURE OF THE QUESTIONS AND THE REQUIREMENT FOR ANSWERS TO ALL QUESTIONS. HE SAID THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THIS AND THAT WHEN QUESTIONS WERE PRESENTED, KIM DONG-JO WOULD ANSWER THEM ALL TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY. HE REITERATED ROKG POSITION THAT THIS WOULD BE A ONE TIME EXCHANGE AND THAT QUESTIONING SHOULD NOT APPEAR AS INVESTIGATORY INTERROGATION BUT RATHER AS AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION FROM KIM DONG-JO.

3. I INFORMED FORMIN THAT IT WOULD HELP GREATLY IF I COULD STATE THAT THE ROKG OFFICIAL POSITION IS THAT IT WILL DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO ENCOURAGE KIM DONG-JO TO RESPOND FULLY TO ALL QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM. FORMIN RESPONDED THAT THE ROKG IS PREPARED TO URGE KIM DONG-JO TO COOPERATE WITH THE US CONGRESS IN THIS MATTER TO THE BEST OF HIS ABILITY.

4. I STATED MOST EMPHATICALLY TO THE FORMIN OUR ASSURANCE THAT A SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENT ON KIM DONG-JO WOULD END THE MATTER. I SAID I WAS AWARE THAT SOME PEOPLE MIGHT THINK OTHER OFFICIALS COULD ALSO BECOME INVOLVED BUT THAT MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE VERY CLEAR THAT THIS WOULD BE AN END TO THE AFFAIR.

5. THE FORMIN THEN SAID HE HAD ONE LITTLE PROBLEM.  
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HE HAS PLANNED TO VISIT TO NIGER AND SIERRA LEONE, DEPARTING SEOUL AUGUST 3 AND RETURNING AUGUST 14. HE SAID THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAVE ALREADY PREPARED A SCHEDULE FOR HIS VISIT. HE THEREFORE HOPED THAT, IF THESE ROKG ASSURANCES WERE ACCEPTABLE, THE QUESTIONS FOR KIM DONG-JO COULD BE SENT TO ARRIVE IN SEOUL AROUND AUGUST 12 OR 13. HE SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN HANDLING THIS MATTER PERSONALLY AND FELT HE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS URGING CANCELLATION OF HIS TRIP BUT AS FORMIN HE WOULD NOT WISH TO OFFEND THESE TWO COUNTRIES. HE ALSO NOTED REPORTS THAT NORTH KOREA'S HO DAM WAS REPORTEDLY PLANNING A VISIT TO AFRICA FOLLOWING THE BELGRADE NAM MEETING. I SAID I WOULD HAVE TO QUERY WASHINGTON ON THE URGENCY WITH WHICH THIS MATTER WAS VIEWED, BUT EXPRESSED THE PESONAL VIEW THAT PROMPT ACHIEVEMENT OF GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CONGRESS MIGHT SOMEWHAT REDUCE THE URGENCY OF SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS.

6. COMMENT: WHILE I WOULD PREFER A MORE POSITIVE STATEMENT FROM KIM DONG-JO HIMSELF, BELIEVE ROKG UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROCESS INVOLVED AND THE RESPONSE EXPECTED AND ITS UNDERTAKING IN LIGHT THEREOF TO URGE

KIM DONG-JO COOPERATION WITH THE US CONGRESS IS A SIGNIFICANT  
STEP FORWARD. WITH THIS UNDERTAKING IN HAND, I WOULD  
URGE THAT THE ETHICS COMMITTEE SERIOUSLY CONSIDER  
SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS THROUGH THE ROKG TO KIM DONG-JO  
FOR REPLY.  
GLEYSTEN

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## Message Attributes

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